

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
FOR THE 216-A-29 DITCH

072143

The purpose of this MOU is to outline the current and potential future activities at the 216-A-29 Ditch such that the Office of Environmental Restoration (ER [EM-40]) and the Office of River Protection (ORP) are coordinated and responsibilities are understood.

The 216-A-29 Ditch is a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Treatment, Storage, and/or Disposal Unit, which was used to transport liquid effluent from PUREX to B Ponds from 1955 until 1991. ER has management responsibility for the ditch and is responsible for closing the site under RCRA. Soil samples were collected from the bottom of the ditch in 1988. In 1991, the ditch was stabilized by backfilling with native soils and the site is currently posted as Underground Radioactive Materials.

In support of tank waste privatization efforts, there is a need for ORP to construct a roadway and utility crossing across the 216-A-29 Ditch. The roadway and utility crossing will be built on top of the existing stabilized fill (i.e., no intrusion into the existing fill). This construction is scheduled for fiscal year 1999. Construction of the road and utilities in compliance with all environmental regulations is solely the responsibility of ORP.

Soil samples were collected at the 216-A-29 Ditch in fiscal year 1998 for limited contaminant analyses at the proposed roadway location to evaluate the quality of 1988 soil sample analyses, to assess the effectiveness of stabilization, and to minimize the need for future samples at the roadway location. Results of this sampling effort are also expected to be used to support RCRA closure of this unit. However, additional soil samples will need to be collected and analyzed to develop a closure strategy for the ditch. The number and locations of these future samples will be determined in a work plan approved by the regulators, which will be completed in fiscal year 1999. Additional field characterization is planned for in fiscal year 2000. The type of closure or remedial action is unknown at this time, but can range *from* no action/clean closure to excavate and dispose or placement of an engineered surface barrier. Remediation, if needed, is planned to start in fiscal year 2004.

Both parties recognize that future closure activities may require substantial soil sampling and/or remediation. Although the intent is to minimize impacts on the proposed roadway and utility crossing, activities may require drilling or excavating near or through the road, and/or may require that the roadway and utility lines be removed/relocated for remediation. Any costs associated with roadway and utility line removal/relocation will be borne by ORP. Should removal or relocation of the road be necessary, ORP will be responsible for stabilization of any portions of the 216-A-29 Ditch affected by activities associated with the road and utilities. ORP will also be responsible for remediating any contamination resulting *from* operational or construction related spills and leaks introduced into the 216-A-29 Ditch by ORP activities.

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Richard A. Holten, Director

Date

Restoration Projects

D. C. Bryson, Director

Date

Operations Program Division